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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

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Anonymous public comment

Submitter Information

General Comment

Chesapeake dead zones are primarily caused by run-off from factory farms that line the Bay. Far from idyllic 'small farms,' these corporate confined animal operations confine hundreds of thousands of animals in windowless buildings that generate waste equivalent to a small city. Rather than hold states and taxpayers accountable for the clean-up, Congress needs to pass regulation that recognizes factory farm waste for what it is: raw sewage, laced with salmonella, e. coli, cryptosporidium, and fecal coliform in amounts that the National Resources Defense Council estimates to be 10 to 100 times more concentrated than in human excrement. This waste also contains high amounts of drugs and antibiotics pumped into these animals to keep them alive in such filth and contamination. It also contributes to the rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria, making it more difficult to treat human disease. Would we allow any community, individual or business to dump raw sewage into our neighborhoods? Why should it be any different for the factory farms that line the Bay?